

Bay Bridge (US 50/301)

Did You Know?

- It costs less to go across the Bay Bridge today than the day it opened. In 1952, the round-trip toll was \$2.80, plus \$0.25 per passenger. Today's toll is \$2.50 and has been in effect since 1975.
- The commuter rate of \$1.00 for the Bay Bridge has not increased since 1983. That's 28 years. In 1983, the commuter toll went up a dime from the \$0.90 it had been since 1975.
- It costs more to paint the Bay Bridge structures today than it did to originally build them.
- Westbound Span – \$148 million to build in 1973, \$172 million to paint and redeck today
- Eastbound Span – \$45 million to build in 1952, \$76 million to paint in the late 1990s

Frequently Asked Questions

Hasn't the Bay Bridge been paid for?

Unfortunately, the answer is no. As everyone who owns a home knows, the initial cost of building a facility is only the beginning of the costs. There are ongoing additional costs to operate and maintain it. Eventually, everything must be replaced or renovated, usually at a higher cost than the initial purchase price, so they are never really "paid for." In this respect, roads, bridges and tunnels are no different from houses.

Why are you proposing to eliminate the Shoppers Program?

The Shoppers Program was created in the Bay Bridge's early years of operation to help provide residents of the Eastern Shore with access to goods and services that were not available on the shore. With the growth in population and businesses on the shore, the Shoppers Program is not being used as it was originally intended.

What E-ZPass Maryland plans are available to me?

If you are an occasional user of MDTA facilities driving a passenger car, light truck or motorcycle, then the Standard Plan will give you a 10% discount off the cash/base toll rate at all Maryland Toll Plazas. This 10% discount is new and being proposed by the MDTA Board as a benefit to E-ZPass Maryland customers.

If you cross the Bay Bridge several times a week, consider signing up for the Bay Bridge Commuter Discount Plan. Even with the proposed change to the discount, customers with this program will enjoy up to a 70% discount off the cash/base toll beginning in October 2011 and a 65% discount beginning in July 2013.

How can I submit comments on the proposed changes?

Comments may be submitted for the official record by 5 p.m. on August 1, 2011, by visiting www.mdtamaryland.gov; or writing to MDTA Toll Comment, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD, 21224.

Proposed Tolls for Passenger Vehicles / Light Trucks (Two-axle Vehicles)

	Commuters ¹	E-ZPass MD ¹	Cash/Base ²	Video ³
Current Toll Rate	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$5.50
Effective Oct 2011	\$1.50	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$6.25
Effective July 2013	\$2.80	\$7.20	\$8.00	\$10.00

¹ E-ZPass Maryland accounts with properly mounted transponder only

² Cash tolls are the base rate for each vehicle/axle class

³ A Video Toll rate is assessed when a driver travels through a toll plaza without a valid E-ZPass or cash payment

Bay Bridge Commuter Discount Plan

		Current			Proposed Phase 1 (Oct 2011)			Proposed Phase 2 (July 2013)		
Facility	Number of trips	Price Per trip	Price	#Trips to break-even	Price Per trip	Price	#Trips to break-even	Price Per trip	Price	#Trips to break-even
Bay Bridge	25	\$1.00	\$25	10	\$1.50	\$37.50	8	\$2.80	\$70	9